

# Utah, Oregon regulators approve PacifiCorp's 2,000-MW RFP

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With a decision by Utah regulators in hand, PacifiCorp has received all needed approvals to issue a 2,000-MW request for proposals.

The Utah Public Service Commission Friday approved the proposed solicitation, with several recommended changes. The Oregon Public Utility Commission approved the RFP May 20. The solicitation stems from a request for bids the Portland, Oregon-based utility released last year, but which generated less than expected interest.

Utah and Oregon are the only states in PacifiCorp's six-state service area that require companies to submit RFP's for approval before issuing.

Under the RFP, PacifiCorp will seek base load, intermediate and summer peaking resources available from June 2012 to 2016 for delivery to both the east and west sides of PacifiCorp's system. The utility expects to need 1,119 MW by 2012 and 2,067 MW by 2016.

The Oregon PUC and Utah PSC took different approaches to how the RFP will handle coal-fired generation. Faced with rising concerns about greenhouse gas emissions, PacifiCorp's draft RFP, filed in February, excluded coal-fired projects from the solicitation.

In Oregon, the utility, however, agreed to change the draft RFP and accept coal-fired projects that meet California's and Washington's strict emissions limit of 11,000 pounds of carbon emitted per MWh, a standard that only newer, advanced coal-fired plants can meet.

The Utah PSC said PacifiCorp must allow any coal-fired proposal to be a part of the solicitation.

"The RFP must subject any coal bids to the full evaluation process in order to determine optimal least-cost and least-risk resources," the Utah PSC said. "Any state regulatory considerations should be addressed after the full analysis of cost, risk and uncertainty."

PacifiCorp has 1.6 million customers and 10,400 MW of generation capacity, according to the company.